



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries Information Sheet

LAKE: Lac Vieux Desert

COUNTY: Vilas

YEAR: 2023

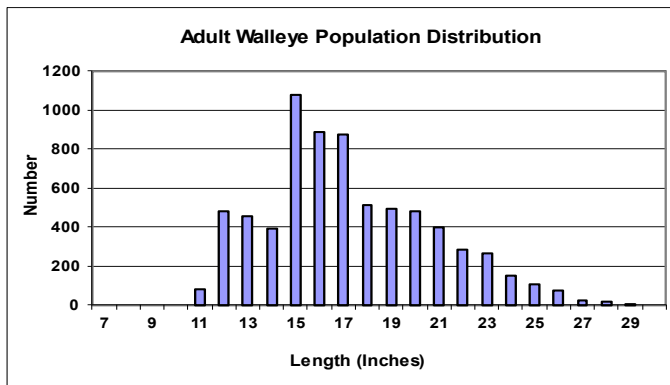
Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with assistance from Michigan DNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, surveyed Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) in Vilas County May 4-12, 2023 to assess the status of the walleye and muskellunge populations. LVD is a 4,300-acre drainage lake with clear water of low to moderate transparency depending upon algal production. The lake's maximum depth is 38 feet, and the bottom substrate composition consists primarily of sand, muck and some rock. LVD's walleye and muskellunge populations are sustained by stocking.



WALLEYE

During four days of walleye-targeted fyke netting, 1,842 adult walleyes (sexually mature or ≥ 15 inches) were captured and marked with a fin clip. Three crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and caught 555 adult walleyes. During electrofishing, 30% (164 of 555) of walleyes bore the fin clip applied during fyke netting. Based on those results, LVD was estimated to contain 7,051 adult walleyes (1.6/acre).

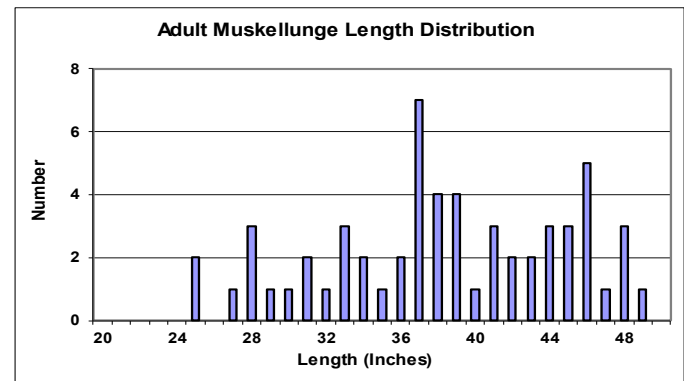


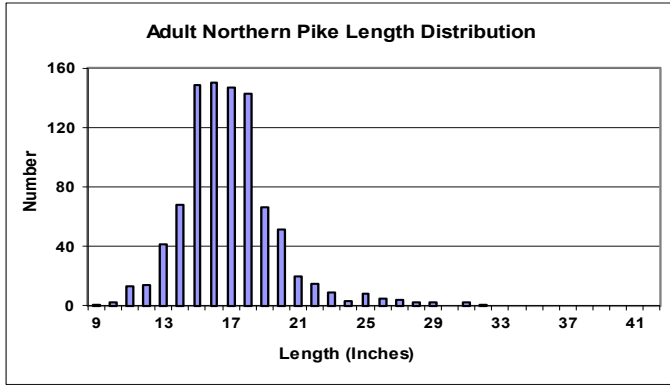
An estimated 80% of adult walleyes were 15 inches or longer. The largest walleye caught was a 29.2-inch female.

MUSKELLUNGE



During fyke netting and electrofishing sampling, 58 adult muskellunge (sexually mature or ≥ 30 inches) were caught. Of the adult muskellunge, 41% (24 of 58) were 40 inches or longer, with the largest being a 49.2-inch female. Additionally, 2 juvenile muskellunge (11.3 and 18.3 inches) were also caught.



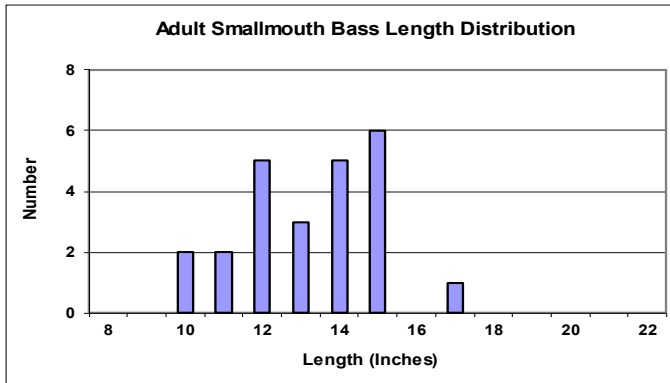
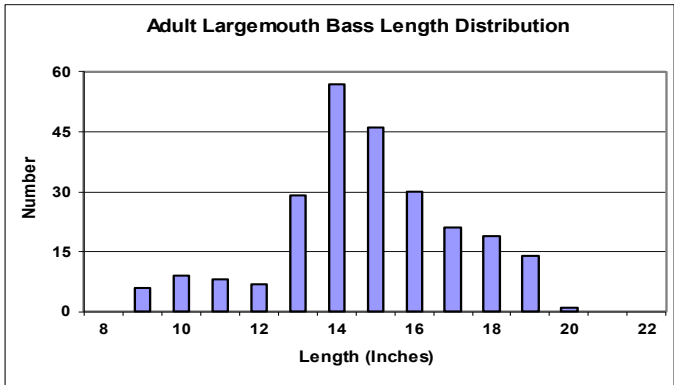


NORTHERN PIKE

Sampling LVD between May 4 and May 12, resulted in the catch of 913 adult northern pike, sexually mature or ≥ 12 inches. Sixteen (2%) of those pike were greater than 26 inches long, the largest measuring 32.4 inches.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass were not a primary target during the survey of LVD, as sampling occurred prior to peak spawning. However, 247 adult largemouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were caught, and 76% were 14 inches or longer, the largest measuring 20.7 inches.



SMALLMOUTH BASS

Smallmouth bass were also not a primary target during the survey of LVD, as sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth spawning. However, 24 adult smallmouth bass (≥ 8 inches) were caught, and 50% were 14 inches or longer, the largest measuring 17.2 inches.

OTHER SPECIES

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, fyke netting and electrofishing sampling efforts in LVD resulted in the catch of 13 additional species of fish; black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow perch were common in survey catches. Other species caught included black bullhead, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, hornyhead chub, shorthead redhorse, white sucker and yellow bullhead.

Table 1. Special fishing regulations for LVD, Vilas County, Wisconsin. Regulations for species not listed below follow the "Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary Waters" rules found within the state fishing regulations pamphlet.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
walleye	May 6 - March 1	3	18 inches

Acknowledgements & Questions

This report was compiled by DNR fisheries technician Mark Love. For answers to questions about findings within this report, contact the treaty fisheries biologist. For questions regarding fisheries management activities on LVD, contact the Vilas County biologist.

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